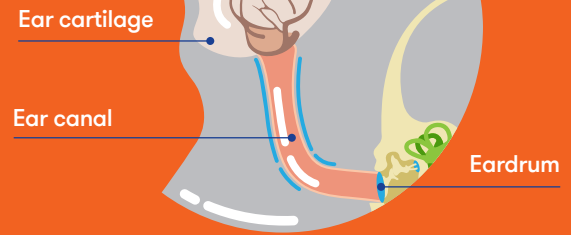


Otitis externa

Otitis externa is an inflammation or infection of the outer ear and eardrum.

Otitis externa can be caused by water in the ear, bacteria, yeast, ear mites, allergies, ear conformation, or excessive wax, hair, or debris inside the ear canal.



What does it look like?

Signs include:

- Ear pain, discharge, or bad odor
- Ear scratching or rubbing
- Headshaking
- Red or swollen ears



How is it diagnosed?

- Clinical signs like ear pain and discharge
- Physical, otoscopic, and ear wax exam results
- Results from other lab tests, as necessary

Sedation or anesthesia may be necessary to examine your pet's ear and collect cytology samples.

- ▶ Dogs with long, droopy ears or hairy ear canals can be predisposed to ear infections.



How is it treated?

Treatment is based on the cause, severity, and duration of the ear infection, and will address any underlying problems (like ear mites, allergies, or foreign bodies in the ear). After checking your pet's eardrum, your veterinary team will prescribe topical ear medications, including antifungals or antibiotics, plus ear-specific cleaning solutions.

Severe cases may also require a deep ear cleaning, under anesthesia, or surgery to fix the structure of the ear.



- ▶ Only your vet can confirm that your pet's ear infection has been resolved.

How to help your pet

- Administer all medications, and provide extended good home treatment, as prescribed by your veterinary team
 - Keep your pet's ears dry, and ask your team about safe bathing and swimming
 - Monitor your pet carefully and schedule follow-up visits as directed
 - Contact your veterinary team with any questions
- ▶ Never put cotton swabs into your pet's ears—they can damage the eardrum.

